

SENATE BILL 2678

By Beavers

AN ACT to name a segment of U.S. Highway 70 in DeKalb County in honor of the late Private First Class Billy Gene Anderson, United States Army.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives while serving our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Private First Class (PFC) Billy Gene Anderson, United States Army, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on May 17, 2010, while serving in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, a young man who counted God, country, and family as the most important things in his life, PFC Anderson was a talented musician who taught himself to play guitar and piano at the age of fifteen; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Billy Gene Anderson was a wonderful father, husband, brother, son, and friend to many; and

WHEREAS, PFC Anderson followed the patriotic tradition for which DeKalb County and the Volunteer State are renowned by reporting for basic training in the United States Army soon after graduating from DeKalb County High School in 2009; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2009, while he was participating in basic training, PFC Anderson's wife, Catlin Potter Anderson, gave birth to their beautiful daughter, Lilly Grace Anderson; and

WHEREAS, after graduating with honors from basic training at Fort Leonard Wood on October 16, 2009, PFC Anderson left that same day for Fort Benning, where he completed paratrooper training; and

WHEREAS, he then was transferred to Fort Bragg to join the 82nd Airborne and was



deployed to Afghanistan on January 13, 2010, serving with distinction as a member of Alpha Company, 508th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, PFC Anderson's personal service awards include the Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the NATO Metal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, PFC Billy Gene Anderson served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, PFC Anderson's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, country and county, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, PFC Billy Gene Anderson selflessly gave his life while serving his country, and it is thus most appropriate that a segment of U.S. Highway 70 in his home county should be named to honor his memory; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the segment of U.S. Highway 70 in DeKalb County from its intersection with Congress Boulevard (State Route 56) in Smithville westward to the DeKalb County-Wilson County boundary is hereby designated the "PFC Billy Gene Anderson Memorial Highway" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Private First Class Billy Gene Anderson, United States Army, one of Tennessee's most heroic citizens.



SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of U.S. Highway 70 described in Section 1 as the "PFC Billy Gene Anderson Memorial Highway". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. The appellation "PFC Billy Gene Anderson Memorial Highway" provided for in this act is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality, or other governmental entity affected by this act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.